REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

E-RATE Funding Year 27-28

NETWORK EQUIPMENT UPGRADE PROJECT

Jones County School District

Technology Department

5204 Hwy 11 North

Ellisville, MS 39437

Contact: Chris Hill, Director of Technology

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E-mail: chill@jonesk12.org

District URL: www.jonesk12.org

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

And

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP # ERATEFY27-28Equipment

Subject

RFP - The Jones County School District (the district) will accept sealed statements of qualifications (SOQ) and proposals from qualified firms/vendors for the FY 27-28 Network Equipment Upgrade Project. This project includes furnishing and delivering new network switches for the identified high school entities, furnishing wireless access points, installing the switches and access points, and providing the associated licensing, support, stacking cables, optics/transceivers, mounting hardware, and other accessories necessary for a complete installation. Configuration of the District network will be performed by District/Millennium personnel. Bidders must have a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN), and this SPIN must be included in the bid proposal.

Purpose

Sites/entities in scope are SOUTH JONES JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL (USAC Entity No. 43647), WEST JONES JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL (USAC Entity No. 43655), and NORTHEAST JONES JR-SR HIGH SCH (USAC Entity No. 43672). These are the USAC entities included in this project. Final quantities and installation locations will be confirmed during the mandatory vendor walkthrough and/or by written addendum.

Proposals are being sought by the District to furnish new RUCKUS ICX 8200 Series switches or equivalent for the high school entities identified above and to furnish and install RUCKUS R670 wireless access points or equivalent. The project shall include all manufacturer-required licensing/support and all accessories necessary for a complete installation. Cabling, new data drops, fiber construction, and closet cleanup are NOT part of this solicitation unless specifically added by written addendum.

General Requirements

The District currently utilizes RUCKUS switching and wireless platforms with an existing enterprise wireless management environment. RUCKUS ICX 8200 Series switches and RUCKUS R670 access points are the District's reference/preferred equipment. Equivalent products may be proposed provided they meet or exceed the functional requirements of the referenced equipment and provide seamless interoperability and management integration with the District's existing environment. Any proposed equivalent solution must include all hardware, software, licensing, management components, and accessories necessary to provide a complete operational solution without additional cost to the District.

Terms used throughout this RFP:

USAC–Universal Service Administrative Company

SPIN –Service Provider Identification Number

FCDL–Funding Commitment Decision Letter

FCC–Federal Communications Commission

SLD–School and Library District

USF — Universal Service Fund

All proposals and supporting documentation must be sent to:

(Submittal should be clearly labeled on the outside of the submittal)

Jones County School District

FY 27-28 Network Equipment Upgrade
Project

RFP # ERATEFY27-28Equipment

Submittal should be addressed to:

Jones County School District

SEE ADDRESS ON PAGE ONE OF THIS RFP

One original and two copies of proposals and statements of qualifications are to be prepared and delivered either by mail or Federal Express to the District on or before 10:00 AM local time, 12/16/26 where they will be time and date stamped. In addition, the bid must be broken down per school building and totals per school campus must be shown, as well as a grand total for the entire district project (PDF and Excel files must be submitted). All the above bid documents must also be provided in electronic format on one jump drive or uploaded to the district's electronic bid server if available. Please view the district's website for instructions on how to access the electronic bid server or contact the school district office. Please do not fax proposals. In addition to the project total, any received bid must include a breakdown of the discounted portion the school is responsible for.

Basis of Award

- E-rate approval by USAC
- The bidder must have SLD SPIN
- References of at least two installations of similar application size and complexity.
- Please see "Vendor Requirements" on the following pages for additional information.
- Please also see "Criteria for Selection" in more detail.

Selection Schedule

Event	Date(s)	Time

Release of RFP to vendors	11/10/26	10:00AM
Mandatory Vendor Site Visit Meeting	12/02/26	10:00AM
Deadline for Submission of Proposals	12/16/26	10:00AM
Opening of Proposals (Jones County School District (District Office))	12/16/26	10:30AM

Proposers are prohibited from contacting or lobbying members of the school board, school district administrators, school district employees, school district contractors, or school district consultants. Failure to conform to this condition will be grounds for disqualification of the proposer. Questions regarding the RFP may be emailed to the address listed on page one of this RFP before 12/09/26. A response within 3 business days will be posted on the district's website and/or emailed to all bidders. It will be the responsibility of the vendor/bidder to check the website daily for any changes to the RFP or the listing of bidder questions and answers that may arise.

NON-APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

In the event funds are not appropriated by the School District governing body in any fiscal period for payments due under RFP # ERATEFY27-28Equipment, then the Technology Director, or Superintendent's designee(s), will immediately notify the successful vendor(s), or designee(s), of such occurrence and this contract will terminate on the last day of the fiscal period for which appropriations were received without penalty or expense to the School District of any kind whatsoever, accept other payments herein agreed upon for which funds will have been appropriated and budgeted or are otherwise available.

AWARD OF SOME OR THE ENTIRE PROJECT MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF DISTRICT FUNDING AND PROJECT NEEDS.

The work will consist of furnishing, delivering, and installing the requested network switches and wireless access points for the identified high school entities. The awarded vendor will rack/install and stack switches; furnish required stacking cables, optics/transceivers, power supplies, mounting hardware, and related accessories; physically install access points at District-designated locations; and update switches and access points to a District-approved current software/firmware version. Configuration of the equipment and District network will be performed by District/Millennium personnel.

MANDATORY VENDOR SITE VISIT MEETING

This Network Equipment Upgrade Project will be awarded to a SINGLE vendor capable of furnishing the requested network switches, wireless access points, licensing, support, installation, and related accessories. The School District requires a complete solution for this project. Requested paper copies and electronic copies of the proposal and other required documentation must be submitted as directed at the beginning of this RFP.

ADDITIONAL WARRANTY INSTRUCTIONS

The successful proposer must warrant its material and workmanship for a period of one year for items requiring purchase and installation. Manufacturer warranties shall apply to all products and materials. Warranty for outright purchase of network switches should include at least three years. No refurbished, used, or gray-market equipment will be accepted. All equipment must be new, manufacturer-authorized, and supplied with full warranty and support.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The district will utilize the following criteria (as the basis for the proposal evaluations & selection).

Factor	Weight
Price of the ELIGIBLE Equipment, Services & Warranties	25%
Prior Experience with the District	15%
Personnel Qualifications, Professionalism & Scope of Work	10%

Management Integration w/ Current Network	15%
Company Provides all Services (No sub-contractors)	15%
Bid Documentation Includes Excel Spreadsheet of Quoted Equipment	10%
Preference to Mississippi Based Companies Attending Site Visit Meeting	10%
Total	100%

The district reserves the right to select outright a single proposer, and to waive the finalists' state of the evaluation process in the event a Proposer has total points scored significantly higher than all the other Proposers responding to this RFP. The district in its sole discretion may accept or reject any or all responses to this RFP and may waive all formalities, technicalities, and irregularities. All bidders are placed on notice that award of the RFP will be based upon the products and services best suited to the district. The sole judgment of the district on such matters shall be final. The district has identified the factors itemized above under scoring criteria as critical to a company's ability to effectively assist the district's integration of technology. To be considered for evaluation, bidders must provide relevant responses to all sections of this RFP.

(100 evaluation points are possible). A separate response is requested for each criteria section. Appropriate labeling required. (See details of each factor below and on the following pages).

A. Pricing (All Eligible Equipment, Services and Warranty)

- Proposer must abide by the district's bid policy.
- Proposer must abide by the state of Mississippi bid laws.
- Proposer must provide specific price quotes for eligible services. The district reserves the right to select a combination of pricing, services and/or Proposer(s) that appears best suited to meet the needs of the district. The proposer must allocate to the extent that a clear delineation can be made between eligible and ineligible components. The proposer(s) must provide school campus bid totals, as well as total cost for the entire project.
    - Prior Experience with the School District

The district has also determined that a company's background, experience, and financial stability are essential for the success of a long-term relationship with its selected Proposer(s). Proposers responding to this RFP should include information about their company's experience, financial stability, and quality of services and products and satisfaction of their clients. A minimum of three (3) references (school districts preferred) should be included in the bid document.

- Personnel Qualifications, Professionalism & Scope of Work

The district is seeking (an) E-rate Proposer(s) that has the depth, breadth, and quality of resources necessary to complete all phases of a broad technology and service project. In addition, the timely availability of these resources and related support elements will be critical to project success. Describe the various resources from your company that will be made available to assist the district in the execution of its mission in performance of each scope of work (SOW). Provide resumes and related experience summaries to demonstrate the competencies and experience of typical personnel who would be assigned to the district program. Provide a list of industry standard certified employees and their certifications. Proposers must provide SOW and contract information for each school campus project being proposed.

- Management Integration w/ Current Network

The District requires a network that will continue to provide modern, efficient, reliable connectivity and support future bandwidth and data requirements. Reliability and high performance are key requirements. Proposed switches and wireless access points must provide interoperability and seamless management integration with the District's current RUCKUS switching and enterprise wireless management environment. If an equivalent platform is proposed, the vendor must include all components, licensing, and services required to provide a complete equivalent management solution.

- Company provides all services (no sub-contractors)

The district is interested in providers that provide all components, installations, and configurations for this RFP without sub-contractors.

- Bid documentation includes Excel spreadsheets of all quoted equipment.

The district requests that all bid/quote documentation also include Excel spreadsheets to allow for seamless upload to the E-Rate 471 application process.

- Mississippi Based Companies Attending Site Visit Meeting (K-12 Experience) The district is interested in providers that understand the technology, administrative, and instructional challenges facing today's educators, children, and administrators. The education environment is vastly changing with challenges that make technology decisions more important as they reach the district constituencies. The respondent must show that their solutions are sustainable within the framework of the district's resources to implement and maintain ongoing operations and that future support is local and Mississippi based.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FORMAT

Please provide the following information in the same format prescribed by this questionnaire. Supplemental materials providing additional information may be attached, but the information requested below is to be provided in this format and sequence. Please provide succinct responses to the following questions and limit those responses to the page allowances set out in each item.

- FIRM INFORMATION: (LIMIT 1/2 PAGE) Name of Firm:

Address of Home Office and Address of Branch Office if Applicable:

Telephone Number(s):

Fax Number(s):

Form of Business Organization (Corporation, Partnership, Individual, Joint Venture, Other):

Year Founded:

Primary individual to contact:

- ORGANIZATION: (LIMIT 1/2 PAGE)

1. How many years has your organization been in business in its current capacity?
2. How many years has your organization been in business under its present name? Under what other or former names has your organization operated?
3. If your organization is a corporation, answer the following: Date of incorporation, State of incorporation, President's name, Vice-President's name(s), Secretary's name, and Treasurer's name.
4. If your organization is a partnership, answer the following: Date of organization, type of partnership, if applicable, names of general partner(s).
5. If your organization is individually owned, answer the following: Date of organization, name of owner.
6. If the form of your organization is other than those listed above, describe it and name the principals.

- LICENSING: (LIMIT 1/2 PAGE)

1. List jurisdictions in which your organization is legally qualified to do business and indicate registration or license numbers, if applicable.
2. List jurisdictions in which your organization's partnership or trade name is filed.

- EXPERIENCE: (LIMIT 2 PAGES)

1. Describe your firm's experience with completing this scope of work for public entities, if any.
2. Provide a list of the public entities previously assisted with contact names and phones numbers.

- FEES:

1. Based on the scope of work outlined herein please describe your firm's full price associated with the completion of this work for the Network Equipment Upgrade Project (RFP # ERATEFY27-28Equipment)

- COORDINATION OF INSTALLATION

1. The Contractor shall be responsible for securing all permits and approvals necessary to complete the work (if required).

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. CONTRACT TERM

The term of the contract will begin when the school board approves, and a written contract is signed by both the district and the vendor/bidder selected. The term of the contract award will begin July 1, 2027. Initiation of the contract is dependent on E-Rate funding, in the event E-Rate does not fund the project then the contract will be null and void. In addition, a Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) does not guarantee the district will proceed with this project and may only be able to proceed with portions of the project on a per school campus basis.

2. CONTRACT/PURCHASE ORDER TERMINATION

The district shall reserve the right to terminate any contract/purchase order entered into as a result of the REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL at any time by giving thirty (30) days written notice of its intent to cancel. In the event the Proposer fails to carry out and comply with any of the conditions and agreements to be performed under the specifications, the district will notify the Proposer, in writing, of such failure or default. In the event the necessary corrective action has not been completed within a 10-day period, the Proposer must submit, in writing, why such corrective action has not been performed. The district reserves the right to determine whether or not such non-compliance may be construed as a failure of performance of the contract/purchase order.

3. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

The successful Proposer must keep himself informed of, and adhere to, all laws and ordinances governing any matter related to work performed under the resulting contract/purchase order. The successful Proposer will obtain all necessary licenses and permits and will be aware of all labor conditions and agreements relating to the work specified in this document and shall make all provisions necessary to avoid any disputes which might arise from those conditions and agreements and shall be responsible for any delays, damages or extra costs caused by disputes.

4. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

It shall be the Proposer's responsibility to provide for the safety of workers and public in compliance with the requirements of insurance and public health and safety. The district requires all workers on-site to have a company badge. A list of workers with current photographs must be provided to the school district's Technology Department throughout the life cycle of the project(s) that require installation or services.

5. INDEMNIFICATION

The Proposer shall be responsible for all damage to persons or property that occurs as a result of his fault or negligence, or that of any of his employees, agents, or subcontractors. Proposer shall save and hold harmless the District and its School Board against any and all loss, cost, damage, claims, expense or liability in connection with the performance of the contract/purchase order. Any equipment or facilities damaged by the Proposer's operation shall be repaired and /or restored to their original condition, including cleaning and painting, at the Proposer's expense. The successful Proposer will assume the liability for all losses, damages (including loss of use), expenses, demands

and claims in connection with or arising out of any injury or alleged injury to persons (including death), or damages or alleged damage to property, sustained or alleged to have been sustained in connection with or to have arisen out of the performance of the work by the Proposer, and his agents, and employees, including losses, expenses, or damages sustained by the District. The successful Proposer will undertake and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the district and its board, individually or collectively, and the officers, agents, and employees of the District and its Board, from any and all such losses, expenses, damages (including loss of use), and to pay all damages, judgments, costs and expenses, including attorney's fees in connection with said demands and claims resulting thereof. Any claims against the district must be filed within the State of Mississippi within the county of the district. The Proposer shall abide by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations that apply to work performed under this Request. The Proposer shall defend, indemnify, and hold the district free and harmless against any and all claims, loss, liability and expense resulting from any alleged violation(s) of said regulation (s) including but not limited to, fines or penalties, judgments, court costs, and attorney's fees.

6. ATTORNEYS STATEMENT

In the event that the district employs attorneys or incurs other expenses that it may deem necessary to protect or endorse its rights under this contract/purchase order, the Proposer agrees to pay the attorney's fees and expenses incurred by the district. If either party defaults in the performance of this agreement, the defaulting party shall pay the non-defaulting party responsible for the attorney's fees and court costs.

7. NEGOTIATIONS

The district reserves the right to have any additional terms and conditions incorporated into the agreement provided an authorized modification to the contract/purchase order is mutually agreed upon and duly executed by both parties.

8. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

In the event of an inconsistency between the terms and conditions of the resulting contract/purchase order, the inconsistency shall be resolved by giving precedence in the following order: (1) The REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL, including the Scope of Work and Statement of Qualifications, and (2) Proposer Response.

9. PROJECT START DATE

The district reserves the right to start the project on or after July 1, 2027, even if the project has not yet received funding. All pricing proposed will be considered valid.

EXHIBIT E-1 (PROPOSER'S CONTRACT DOCUMENTS)

Proposer shall provide a contract for services to be offered. Proposer shall also provide a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to include resolution procedures, escalation process, and Proposer's response structure (tiered or other).

Reference List		
1	Company	Contact Name
	Phone Number	Fax Number
	E-Mail Address	Physical Address
	Scope of Work	
2	Company	Contact Name
	Phone Number	Fax Number
	E-Mail Address	Physical Address
	Scope of Work	
3	Company	Contact Name
	Phone Number	Fax Number
	E-Mail Address	Physical Address
	Scope of Work	

Scope of Work

• Furnish and deliver new RUCKUS ICX 8200 Series network switches or equivalent for the high school entities identified in this RFP. Proposed switches must provide appropriate port density, PoE/PoE+ capacity, uplink capability, and stacking capability for the District's requirements.

• Furnish RUCKUS R670 Wi-Fi 7 indoor wireless access points or equivalent and physically install the access points at District-designated locations. Access points must include all manufacturer-required licensing/support and be compatible with the District's existing enterprise wireless management environment, or the vendor must include all components required for an equivalent complete solution.

• Furnish all equipment and accessories required for a complete installation, including applicable stacking cables, optics/transceivers, power supplies, rack-mount hardware, access point mounting hardware, and other manufacturer-required components.

• Install/rack and stack the new switches and install the wireless access points. Existing cabling will be utilized unless otherwise identified by the District. New cabling, new data drops, fiber construction, and closet cleanup are outside the scope of this RFP unless added by written addendum.

• Update all furnished switches and access points to a District-approved current software/firmware version. Network configuration, VLAN configuration, SSID configuration, controller configuration, and other District network configuration will be performed by District/Millennium personnel unless otherwise specifically requested by the District.

• Label installed equipment and provide an electronic asset spreadsheet identifying, at minimum, school/entity, equipment type, manufacturer, model, serial number, installation location, and MAC address where applicable. Provide as-built documentation and administrative handoff information at project completion.

• Bid pricing must be itemized and broken down by USAC entity/school. The proposal must identify equipment, licensing/support, installation, and accessories separately and must include PDF and Excel files suitable for E-Rate Form 471 preparation.

• All equipment must be new, manufacturer-authorized, and supplied with applicable manufacturer warranty and support. Refurbished, used, or gray-market equipment will not be accepted.

• Final quantities and exact installation locations will be confirmed during the mandatory vendor walkthrough and/or through a written addendum issued by the District.